

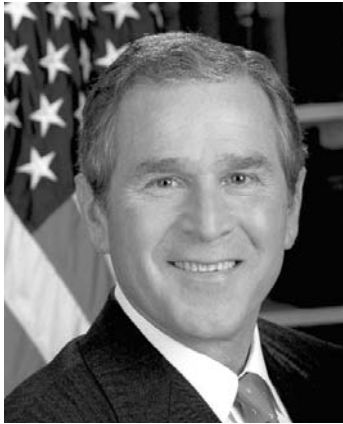
This generation of citizens will show the world
the *energy* and *idealism* of the United States of America.

President George W. Bush, May 21, 2003

Volunteers for Prosperity

A Presidential Initiative of the USA Freedom Corps

VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY



“Today, I would like to announce a new USA Freedom Corps initiative called Volunteers for Prosperity, which will give America’s highly skilled professionals new opportunities to serve abroad. The program will enlist American doctors and nurses and teachers and engineers and economists and computer specialists and others to work on specific development initiatives, including those that I have discussed today. These volunteers will serve in the countries of their choice, for however long their project takes. Like generations before us, this generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America.”

President George W. Bush
May 21, 2003

Executive Summary

The Volunteers for Prosperity initiative (VfP) has made significant progress since the signing of Executive Order 13317 on September 25, 2003.

Organization, Process, and Programming Support

VfP is based upon longstanding principles of the United States to assist in the development of other nations and pursue a global health and prosperity agenda essential to national security. Currently, this agenda is represented by six Presidential initiatives:

- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- Digital Freedom Initiative
- Middle East Partnership Initiative
- Water for the Poor
- Trade for African Development and Enterprise
- Millennium Challenge Corporation

Since its establishment by USAID's Administrator, the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP Office) has served as the interagency coordinator, providing leadership on developing the initiative's organization, process, and programming. To date, the accomplishments of the VfP Office include the following:

- contributed to the establishment, management, and direction of VfP offices or operating units within the departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Commerce
- advised on the modification of relevant U.S. Government grant procedures to support the effective use of highly skilled American volunteers
- gathered and reviewed baseline data about VfP and its contribution to the six Presidential initiatives

Ensuring Growth and Impact of the Initiative

In addition to supporting development of VfP's infrastructure, the VfP Office has provided leadership for the initiative's core mission of matching highly skilled American volunteers with U.S.-based organizations concerned with global health and prosperity. This leadership is essential to the initiative's ongoing growth and impact.

Since May 21, 2002, when the President announced VfP, the VfP Office has

- directed the recruitment of more than 110 for-profit and nonprofit organizations
- assisted in the development of a pool of nearly 14,000 highly skilled American professionals available to serve as Volunteers for Prosperity
- supported the deployment of nearly 3,000 volunteers

VfP holds great promise. The VfP Office will endeavor to realize this potential by reaching out to greater numbers of highly skilled American professionals, helping deploy them as volunteers, and identifying and recruiting more participating organizations.

Introduction

On May 21, 2003, President George W. Bush announced Volunteers for Prosperity, an initiative that deploys skilled volunteers in official U.S. foreign assistance programs that advance health and prosperity. On September 25, the President signed Executive Order 13317 providing direction and organization for the initiative, which forms part of the USA Freedom Corps. This document fulfills the order's requirement for a progress report 180 days after its signing.

Mission Statement

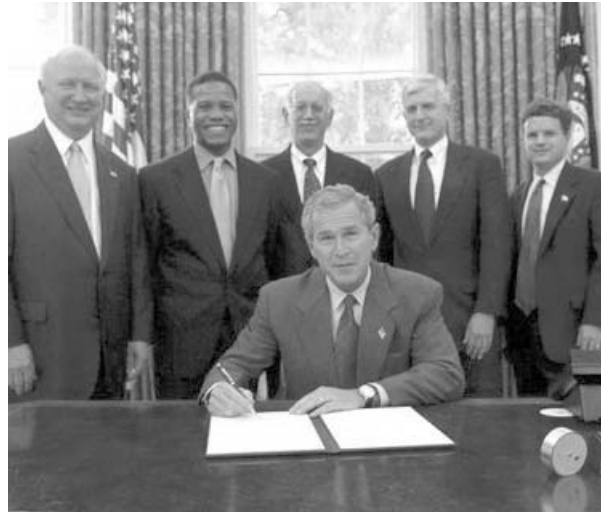
The mission of Volunteers for Prosperity is to promote the energy and idealism of the United States through support of international voluntary service by highly skilled American professionals that meets the global health and prosperity goals of the U.S. Government.

International Voluntary Service: A Powerful American Value

International voluntary service runs deep in the American spirit. In his Farewell Address, President George Washington noted the importance to national security of “magnanimous” and “benevolent” policies toward other nations.

International voluntary service has also been a source of national strength since the earliest days of the United States. The confluence of efforts of individual American volunteers, voluntary organizations, and government has been a distinctly American contribution to world stability and development.

American volunteers and the U.S. Government joined forces to provide major relief for Europe during and after the First World War. Following the Second World



Behind President George W. Bush, from left to right, are Samuel Bodman, Deputy Secretary of Commerce; Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services; Andrew Natsios, Administrator, USAID; Alan Larson, Under Secretary of State; and John M. Bridgeland, Director of the USA Freedom Corps and Assistant to the President.

War, the Marshall Plan was a triumph of American assistance, providing financial support for the rebuilding of Europe and promoting policies of political and economic freedom and openness.

Tens of thousands of American volunteers have responded and continue to respond to President John Kennedy's great initiative, the Peace Corps—one of America's and the world's best-loved international programs. The Peace Corps, requiring a minimum two-year commitment by volunteers, has transformed the lives of aid recipients as well as those of thousands of American volunteers.

President Bush is now calling on Americans citizens to mobilize in “armies of compassion.” The Volunteers for

Prosperity initiative links organizations that have international volunteer opportunities with highly skilled professionals. These organizations place the volunteers in shorter, more flexible assignments than the Peace Corps model.

To advance America's strategic agenda for global health and prosperity, VfP is pursuing these objectives:

- *Matching highly skilled American volunteers with needs:* Through a range of activities, VfP will promote international voluntary service and link U.S.-based organizations with experienced American professionals who wish to volunteer.
- *Innovative support:* The President's order makes grant applicants who rely on skilled American volunteers more competitive for federal funds.
- *Outreach:* VfP is already working toward supporting a new model of private-public cooperation in foreign assistance. A wide range of organizations previously not involved in official foreign assistance—including smaller faith-based and community groups, trade associations, and corporations—are joining to help highly skilled American volunteers answer the President's call to service.
- *Recognition:* Volunteers can qualify for public recognition of their contributions through the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Answering the President's Call to Service

In the weeks before the May 21 announcement, a team of officials from the USA Freedom Corps, the National Security Council, USAID, and the State Department developed the idea that VfP would focus on six

Presidential foreign assistance initiatives that support health and prosperity objectives:

- the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI)
- Water for the Poor Initiative
- Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE)
- the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
- the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

After May 21, USA Freedom Corps and USAID staff began educating the foreign assistance community about the initiative and held organizational meetings with officers coordinating the six initiatives.

The President's September 25 Executive Order directed three principal actions by government agencies. First, USAID was designated interagency coordinator for VfP. Second, USAID and the departments of State, Commerce, and Health and Human Services were required to create VfP offices or operating units. Third, the departments and agencies were required to support voluntary service by making organizations using skilled volunteers more competitive in applications for federal grants.

On September 29, after President Bush had signed the Executive Order, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios and USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland led a briefing at the National Press Club outlining the next steps for VfP. Four volunteers spoke: Pete Kappelman of the Land O'Lakes Cooperative; Kathleen Hartmann, a volunteer with Catholic Medical Mission Board; Richard

Furman of Samaritan's Purse; and John Orrell of International Executive Service Corps.

In December 2003, Administrator Natsios established the VfP Office in USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). He also named a director to manage the office, recruit and lead a small staff, and coordinate the U.S. Government's efforts on behalf of the initiative. In consultation with this USAID office, other agencies subject to the order established a VfP office or an operating unit.

- *The Department of State* identified a coordinator within its Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and established an operating unit consisting of officers from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator.
- *The Department of Commerce* identified a coordinator within its Office of Policy and Strategic Planning and established an operating unit within Technology Administration.
- *The Department of Health and Human Services* (HHS) established an operating unit in the Office of Global Health Affairs.

The USAID VfP Office held meetings with officials at the departments of State, Commerce, and HHS to consider the roles and potential contributions of each agency and strategies that advance the initiative.

Global Health and Prosperity Initiatives

VfP's goal is to deploy highly skilled American volunteers to the developing world, initially in support of the Presidential initiatives described below. As VfP matures, its involvement with additional health and prosperity initiatives is anticipated, at the President's discretion.

PEPFAR, directed by the Department of State and supported by HHS and USAID, is a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic by targeting assistance to the 14 most afflicted countries in Africa and the Caribbean. PEPFAR will offer considerable volunteer opportunities for U.S. medical and paramedical professionals. Specifically, the initiative will

- prevent 7 million new infections
- treat 2 million HIV-infected people
- care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans

DFI is led by the Department of Commerce, with support from USAID and assistance from the Peace Corps and the USA Freedom Corps. The first men and women to serve overseas as Volunteers for Prosperity were information technology professionals helping small businesses in Senegal through DFI. The initiative promotes economic growth by transferring the benefits of U.S. information and communication technology (ICT) to small businesses in the developing world. The success of DFI-Senegal, with a budget estimated at \$6.5 million over three years, has led to expansion into Peru and Indonesia. Ultimately, the initiative will reach 20 countries. Elements of this initiative include

- placing volunteers in small businesses to share business knowledge and technology expertise



Speakers at the Volunteers for Prosperity press briefing at the National Press Club, September 29, 2003. Left to right, Administrator Andrew Natsios, USAID; Kathleen Hartmann, R.N., volunteer with Catholic Medical Mission Board; Richard Furman, M.D., Samaritan's Purse World Medical Mission; Director John Bridgeland, USA Freedom Corps.

- promoting progrowth regulatory and legal structures to enhance business competitiveness
- using existing technology and communications infrastructure in new ways

The Water for the Poor Initiative, managed by USAID, seeks to improve the sustainable management of fresh water resources in developing countries. The initiative concentrates on enhancing access to clean water and sanitation services, improving watershed management, and increasing the productivity of water use. Potential volunteer opportunities are now being considered. The United States has proposed an investment of up to \$970 million between 2003 and 2005 for the initiative, which supports

- access to clean water and sanitation services
- improved watershed management
- increased productivity of water

TRADE is a five-year initiative managed by USAID and supported by three regional global competitiveness hubs—in Kenya, Ghana, and Botswana. TRADE's goal is to build the capacity of African governments, firms, and organizations to take advantage of incentives provided under preferential trade agreements; increase U.S. trade with Africa; and find ways to promote development through trade relations. Anticipated volunteer opportunities include working with businesses to identify and develop exportable products. TRADE supports

- linking American and African businesses
- strengthening the business environment for African businesses
- developing public services and policies that support trade

MEPI, managed by the Department of State, works with Middle East governments and citizens to expand economic, political, and educational opportunities. By the end of FY 2004, MEPI will have received a total of \$149 million. The initiative encompasses more than \$1 billion in U.S. Government assistance provided annually to Middle Eastern countries. The initiative is expected to offer volunteer activities in a range of sectors, including business development, information technology, and education. The initiative

- promotes financial sector reforms
- supports business linkages
- develops entrepreneurship among Middle Eastern youth

MCC, established through legislation passed in 2004, seeks to reduce poverty by significantly increasing economic growth through targeted investments in

recipient countries. To be eligible for assistance, countries must demonstrate commitment to three standards: ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom. MCC will receive \$650 million in FY 2004. It will provide opportunities for a significant number of volunteers with experience in such areas as technical assistance, training, and capacity building.

Supporting Volunteers for Prosperity through the Grant Process

The Executive Order states that the main purpose of VfP offices and operating units will be to “promote, expand, and enhance well-defined volunteer service opportunities for highly skilled U.S. professionals” who wish to work with organizations in support of the objectives of the global prosperity agenda. Accordingly, within federal agencies subject to the requirements of the order, “such promotion, expansion, and enhancement would include actively participating in the design and selection processes for grants within their agencies.”

The Executive Order further directs VfP offices and operating units “to use their best efforts to use funds available” for the six Presidential initiatives “to provide appropriate support to organizations that use highly skilled American volunteers to accomplish the objectives identified in those initiatives.” The USAID VfP Office guided and supported other offices and operating units and initiated efforts to actively participate in the design and selection processes for grants. Progress in the area of grant language is reported below.

PEPFAR

In its February 2004 report to Congress, the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator indicated that PEPFAR and many of its grantees would participate in VfP. One example of this potential is an HHS announcement in October 2003 concerning the availability of funds for a cooperative agreement to support a twinning center (TC). To strengthen human and organizational capacity, the TC will use healthcare volunteers to expand the pool of trained providers, managers, and allied health staff delivering quality services to HIV-infected pregnant women and HIV-exposed infants. The notice by the Health Resources and Services Administration stated:

The TC will coordinate closely with and have oversight of Volunteers for Prosperity’s HIV/AIDS volunteers. The TC will also look at on-going federal government and non-governmental organization volunteer programs to learn from their experiences in fielding and using volunteers. We expect that by Year Two the TC will become a focal point for networks of volunteers who are qualified to serve in the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

DFI

USAID’s Global Development Alliance (GDA), which promotes public-private partnerships, played a significant role in DFI. Through the GDA’s IT Mentoring Alliance, created and implemented in FY 2003, a leading U.S. information technology trade association mentored peer organizations in developing countries. Future activities could follow this model. GDA also encouraged the use of skilled American volunteers and promoted VfP in a Request for Applications (RFA) released in December 2003 with the following wording:

A September 25, 2003 Executive Order established the Volunteers for Prosperity, a new volunteer-based initiative of the USA Freedom Corps, designed to support major U.S. development initiatives overseas using the talents of highly skilled Americans who will work with U.S. organizations in countries around the world. Consistent with this, we encourage utilization and integration of volunteers as they may be appropriate in your programs. Further information on Volunteers for Prosperity can be found at <http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov>.

Water for the Poor

USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT), responsible for managing Water for the Poor, consulted with the VfP Office to draft Request for Applications (RFA) language that emphasizes the use of skilled American volunteers and supports VfP:

USAID missions and bureaus may have interest in taking advantage of highly skilled U.S. citizens who are interested in volunteering their time for short-[to] medium [-term] work opportunities in support of Agency development objectives. This contract will provide a mechanism through which USAID programs can access such individuals, within the framework of an effective and efficient volunteer matching and support system.

The following was prepared for inclusion in a forthcoming RFA:

Programs should be reinforced by American volunteerism to the maximum extent practicable. President Bush has made combating global poverty and stimulating prosperity in developing countries a national priority. On May 21, 2003, he expanded his call to volunteer service by issuing a call to Americans trained in professional specialties to serve as volunteers with nonprofit organizations helping to generate prosperity in countries around the world. Applicants are encouraged to read about the 'Volunteers for Prosperity' initiative at www.usafreedomcorps.gov/ and include in their proposal ways and means to utilize skilled American volunteers strategically in their program.

TRADE

Managed by USAID's Bureau for Africa, TRADE supports the use of skilled American volunteers through Volunteers in Economic Growth Assistance (VEGA), a USAID consortium of 14 leading private voluntary organizations. Developed within the EGAT bureau, VEGA was formalized on February 23, 2004. The consortium is designed to serve as a procurement mechanism for any USAID mission or initiative that requires assistance.

MEPI

In early 2004, the Department of State's MEPI office issued a standing program announcement seeking requests for grants and cooperative agreement proposals that support economic, political, and educational reform efforts in the Middle East and increased opportunities for all people of the region, especially women and youth. In consultation with the VfP Office, the following language was included in the announcement:

In keeping with the President's Volunteers for Prosperity initiative, proposals that use highly skilled American volunteers are encouraged. The proposal should explain clearly how the volunteers will be used and, if this is not applicable, an explanation of why not.

MCC

While only recently legislated, MCC may prove to be the ideal application of the VfP initiative. Skilled American volunteers may play a significant role assisting MCC-candidate country governments to develop proposals. In effect, volunteers may serve as MCC field staff.

Implementing VfP: Early Results and Future Directions

In response to formal surveys developed, distributed, collated, and reviewed by the USAID VfP Office, each agency's VfP office or operating unit has reported progress on the programmatic aspect of initiatives under its direction. Responses also addressed the potential use of skilled American volunteers and the future effectiveness of VfP.

PEPFAR

PEPFAR's implementation began in earnest in November 2003. A two-week meeting of representatives from all involved federal departments and agencies focused on moving resources quickly for initiative activities and using a three-part approach—tracks 1, 1.5, and 2—to coordinate and communicate field- and headquarters-based activities. The meeting's outcomes included the development of an FY 2004 country operational plan with guidance and central procurements to carry out activities in five areas: 1) behavior modification through encouraging abstinence and faithfulness (ABC), 2) care for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), 3) care and antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected persons (ART), 4) prevention through safe blood programs, and 5) prevention through safe medical practices. Country plans developed at the meeting were distributed to chiefs of mission for each of the 14 PEPFAR countries.

On December 1, 2003, the five central procurements were posted, with Requests for Proposals to be submitted by January 1, 2004 (Track 1). Proposals for the ABY, OVC, and ART central procurements were reviewed and notifications sent out to each chief of mission on January 7. Mission concurrence was received, and activities were expected soon thereafter.

The first awards were made in mid-January.

The PEPFAR countries submitted initial plans for Track 1.5 activities to the Global AIDS Coordinator's Office on January 1, and concurrence was granted January 10. These plans included rapid expansion of existing prevention, care, and treatment activities, including those started under the President's International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative. All funds under this phase were obligated by January 19.

PEPFAR countries are now well into the planning phase for FY 2004 activities relating to country operations (Track 2). Interagency teams were established to support them for the duration of the initiative. These teams began visiting the 14 countries in February 2004; they are expected to complete visits in March. Track 2 country operational plans will be submitted to the Global AIDS Coordinator's office by the end of March, and reviews will be held in early April.

Since the five-year strategy of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator addresses the importance and role of volunteers, volunteer deployment is expected to rise significantly when PEPFAR activities are further developed, especially under Track 2.

DFI

The initiative's pilot activity in Senegal continues to move forward in the following focus areas: improving the country's financial infrastructure and access to credit for small businesses; improving performance and market access by small and medium-sized enterprises; and promoting a more procompetitive policy and regulatory environment for ICT. DFI's notable

achievements include expansion of a Cisco Networking Academies program to 11 Senegalese sites; a collaboration between Hewlett-Packard and a Senegalese company to develop a microfinance solution for 2004; and the collaborative effort by industry experts from U.S. organizations and the Government of Senegal to formulate an enabling policy and regulatory environment for ICT.

In Peru, initiative partners seek to leverage U.S. expertise in areas such as distance learning, telemedicine, and e-government. Existing ICT infrastructure will be used to help expand programs for entrepreneurs and help small businesses better compete in local, regional, and global marketplaces. The program aims to promote progrowth policies and regulations that enhance business competitiveness.

In Indonesia, DFI is just beginning: a U.S. design team was dispatched to develop plans for engaging the governments and private sectors of both countries. The initiative plans to place experienced American volunteers in small and medium-sized enterprises to share ICT expertise. DFI also supports the development of a national cybersecurity program to facilitate the growth of computerization and e-commerce.

The involvement in DFI of experienced American volunteers is expected to grow significantly. The initiative has come to exemplify the potential of VfP.

Water for the Poor

Volunteers have been and will be used to support efforts critical to success of the initiative. The United States-Asia Environmental Partnership, managed by

USAID's Bureau for Asia and the Near East, has accessed volunteer water experts through the American Water Works Association. These American volunteers have conducted training programs on water supply and sanitation in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. They have also drafted a standard operating procedures manual for drinking water production, distribution, and water quality monitoring for three Indonesian localities.

Two other mechanisms expected to use a significant number of volunteer U.S. water experts are managed by the EGAT bureau, in cooperation with the International City/County Management Association.

TRADE

The EGAT bureau is now implementing appropriate VfP activities through VEGA, officially announced only on February 23, 2004. VEGA will pursue an approach that allows USAID missions to request technical assistance from experienced American professionals on economic growth activities.

MEPI

In January 2004, MEPI sponsored a successful workshop on WTO compliance for the Persian Gulf. Participants included more than 25 regional trade and agricultural experts. That month, MEPI held a workshop on intellectual property rights to prepare for the opening of free trade agreement negotiations in Bahrain. MEPI has also initiated work on additional programs in election assistance, political party strengthening, and civic education.

MEPI is planning to implement the Partnership for Financial Excellence, which aims to accelerate

economic growth and job creation by reinforcing the competitiveness, efficiency, and soundness of the region's financial institutions and capital markets. The Financial Services Volunteer Corps, American experts in finance and business, will play a significant role in these efforts in Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan.

With the growth in these and other activities, MEPI staff expects an increase in the need for experienced American volunteers.

MCC

This recently legislated initiative expects a strong need for experienced American volunteers to serve in the field.

Participation in OPIN

USAID's Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination created and manages the Online Presidential Initiative Network (OPIN), a centralized system for collecting data and preparing progress reports on 19 Presidential initiatives related to sustainable development that are implemented, in part or whole, by USAID. VfP is one of the 19, added after consultations with the VfP Office. The office has agreed to report through the OPIN system on numbers of participating organizations and volunteers.

Virtual Promotion of Volunteers for Prosperity

VfP Website

After the President's announcement in May 2003, VfP launched a website, www.volunteersforprosperity.gov. Initially, the site provided information about VfP, the Presidential initiatives that VfP supported, and participating organizations that sponsor international voluntary service. The site also offered a basic platform for bringing interested American professionals to these organizations.

The September 2003 Executive Order and press briefings generated significant interest in the website. From September to October, the number of unique visitors increased from 2,067 to 7,460. For the same period, the number of repeat visits jumped from 2,459 to 9,874. The number of unique visitors from November to February averaged 6,595, and the number of repeat visits averaged 8,082.

An enhanced VfP website is scheduled to be launched in March 2004. The improved site will offer additional content and matchmaking capabilities for prospective volunteers and participating organizations. Through active promotion, the new site should be able to increase the number of repeat visits and unique visitors.

Reaching Out to Organizations and Volunteers

VfP is designed to be flexible and inclusive. It is open to participation from a variety of U.S.-based organizations, including for-profit corporations that mobilize their employees to answer the President's call to voluntary service. VfP is also open to participation from non-profit organizations that receive federal government



Volunteers for Prosperity Website, March 2004.

grants and those receiving no government funds. The initiative is designed to leverage government spending for foreign assistance with the largest possible contributions of private philanthropy and skilled volunteer service.

Selection Criteria

VfP is encouraging an increasing number of organizations to promote voluntary service abroad. USAID's VfP Office has been actively identifying and recruiting organizations that meet the following criteria. The organization must meet the following criteria:

- be organized under the laws of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory of the United States, and must have its headquarters in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory of the United States

- conduct or anticipate conducting overseas activities consistent with the general purposes of federally supported initiatives upon which VfP focuses
- sponsor or indicate it is willing to sponsor highly skilled American professionals who wish to volunteer to work on specific U.S. development initiatives upon which VfP focuses

Growing Numbers

VfP's planners enlisted 14 participating organizations before the President's announcement May 21. During the summer of 2003, USAID's DCHA bureau collected significant data on the use of skilled volunteers by more than 400 private voluntary organizations registered with USAID. The survey responses secured 32 more participants, for a baseline of 46 organizations.

At the direction of the White House, the VfP Office undertook a sustained effort to identify and recruit more organizations in early November 2003. The office successfully recruited 64, a cross section of leading private voluntary organization and corporations. The number of participating organizations is now more than 110, and the office continues its active recruitment. (The complete list has been posted on the website, www.volunteersforprosperity.gov).

The results of recent surveys indicate that organizations currently participating represent a pool of at least 13,600 available volunteers. That number, based on responses from just one-half of the participating organizations, is expected to grow through the recruitment of additional organizations and the attraction of

more prospective volunteers through the enhanced website.

More significantly, in response to a January 2004 survey, 25 participating organizations reported deploying 2,778 volunteers after May 21, 2003 (the day the President announced the creation of VfP). That number represents 20 percent of the pool of available volunteers.

Recognition

The VfP Office will seek to arrange for all participating organizations to become certifying organizations for the President's Volunteer Service Award. At this time, 10 are certifying organizations.

The Future of Volunteers for Prosperity

While significant progress has been made—in organization, process, and programming—the VfP Office is planning a series of additional steps important to the initiative’s future, including improved communications, reporting, monitoring, and outreach.

Improved Communications with and among Initiative Owners

The newly established VfP Office held meetings with initiative owners to discuss progress and initial reporting requirements for volunteer activities. These meetings were a reference point for timely communications by telephone and email. The office intends to schedule regular meetings with individual initiative owners and will endeavor to schedule meetings of all owners to develop best practices. Such meetings may provide invaluable information on what works best and under what circumstances, since each initiative is at a different stage of development.

Improved Reporting and Monitoring Capabilities

In consultation with initiative owners, the VfP Office will develop and manage a reporting and monitoring system that collects information on a quarterly basis. The current survey, used to gather information for this report, met the needs of developing baseline data and will be updated periodically.

More Comprehensive Outreach

The VfP Office is developing a comprehensive outreach plan. Features of the final plan may include targeting trade and professional organizations with relevant expertise; developing communications that highlight

TULSA WORLD

“The possibilities for service are endless. The impact is direct and lasting. Through Volunteers for Prosperity, more American professionals are able to serve overseas. American volunteers project the very best of America’s character. They present a human face—a face of compassion and hope—to the people they serve. By doing so, they represent the values of America to the world.”

USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios and
USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland

Tulsa World, December 28, 2003

the importance of international voluntary service; and identifying effective means of promoting the good work of existing and prospective participating organizations.

Expectations and Impact

The VfP Office will endeavor to realize the great and far-reaching promise of the initiative. Though much has been done, much remains to be done. Specifically, the VfP Office will seek to grow the number of participating organizations to at least 200 and number of available, highly skilled American volunteers to at least 20,000 by the end of FY 2004. Given this pool of volunteers, the VfP Office would like to see participating organizations deploy at least 4,000 by September 30, 2004.

The Volunteers for Prosperity initiative is an interagency effort of the USA Freedom Corps, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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